

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04
/084 W

-----116851 211806Z /43

R 211627Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4196
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES JOIN WAGE CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) BONN 20738; (B) BONN 19869

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF WAGE DEMANDS (REF A) THE FOUR DGB
AFFILIATED UNIONS ORGANIZING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVE
ANNOUNCED WAGE DEMANDS FOR THE FORTHCOMING 1978 WAGE
ROUND COVERING ALMOST 3.5 MILLION GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
AND CALLING FOR A 7.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES AND
SALARIES AND AN INCREASE IN ANNUAL LEAVE BY FIVE WORK-
ING DAYS FOR THE LOWER GRADES. GOVERNMENT REPRESENT-

TATIVES COMMENTED RELUCTANTLY THAT THESE DEMANDS ARE "TOO HIGH". WAGE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO OPEN BEFORE THE SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY WHEN IT IS LIKELY THAT A SETTLEMENT WILL HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE METAL INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. DGB PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION (OETV) PRESIDENT KLUNCKER, SPEAKING FOR THE FOUR DGB UNIONS INVOLVED, I.E., OETV, POSTAL, RAILROAD WORKERS AND TEACHERS' UNIONS SAID THAT THE UNIONS' WAGE PACKAGE REPRESENTS A RECOMMENDATION WHICH STILL HAS TO BE APPROVED BY THE UNIONS' BARGAINING COMMISSION WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO MEET ON FEBRUARY 10. THE CURRENT WAGE AGREEMENTS EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 28, 1978. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE UNION DEMANDS HAD TAKEN THE OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION INTO ACCOUNT (CALCULATING A 3.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE REAL GNP AND A 4 PERCENT INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES), BUT LABELED THE STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMICS ADVISORS (REF B) AS "NONSENSE WHICH IS OF NO INTEREST" TO THE UNIONS.

2. KLUNCKER POINTED OUT THAT A NEW SYSTEM OF ANNUAL LEAVE IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR THE UNIONS. THE LENGTH OF VACATION SHOULD NO LONGER BE BOUND TO SALARY GROUPS, HE STATED, BUT EXCLUSIVELY TO AGE, SO THAT EMPLOYEES UP TO THE AGE OF 30 SHOULD GET 25 WORKING UNCLASSIFIED

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DAYS, THOSE UP TO AGE 40, 28 WORKING DAYS, AND THOSE OVER 40, 30 WORKING DAYS PER YEAR. THIS WOULD MEAN MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PARTICULARLY FOR THE LOWER SALARY GROUPS, ACCORDING TO KLUNCKER. HE ADDED THAT THE COSTS OF THE PROPOSED NEW LEAVE SYSTEM HAD NOT BEEN CALCULATED BY THE UNIONS.

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3. ANOTHER PART OF THE "PACKAGE" PROVIDES FOR AN
8 TO 18 PERCENT INCREASE IN APPRENTICES' COMPENSATION
WHICH NOW RANGES BETWEEN DM 384 AND DM 585 PER MONTH.
(\$ 1 DM 2.10)

4. THE UNION WAGE CAMPAIGN DIRECTLY AFFECTS AN ESTIMA-
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TED 2.2 MILLION BLUE COLLAR WORKERS AND SALARIED EM-
PLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION (FEDERAL AND
LAENDER (STATE) GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES),
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND IN THE FEDERAL RAILWAYS AND
POSTAL SERVICES. ANOTHER 1.3 MILLION CIVIL SERVANTS
WHOSE SALARIES ARE REGULATED BY LAW ARE INDIRECTLY
AFFECTED SINCE THE FEDERAL AND LAENDER PARLIAMENTS, AS
A GENERAL RULE, HAVE USED SETTLEMENTS ACHIEVED UNDER
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR BLUE COLLAR WORKERS AND
SALARIED EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES AS A BASIS
FOR SALARY INCREASES WHICH MUST BE ENACTED BY THE
PARLIAMENTS.

5. COMMENT: AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WILL LARGELY DEPEND UPON A SETTLEMENT ACHIEVED BY THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION FOR ITS MEMBERS. KLUNCKER INDICATED THAT THE METALWORKERS' SETTLEMENT, WHICH IS EXPECTED PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF WAGE NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, WILL NECESSARILY INFLUENCE ANY NEW AGREEMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.
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